

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
May 2001**

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office

At the May 10, 2001 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission, the following items were discussed:

- The Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) report was approved for calendar year 2000.
- The Station Location and Resource Allocation Work Group Phase 2A Report concerning Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department Station 30 was adopted.
- Amendments were made to communications procedures concerning the designation of portable radios and the assignment of an operations channel when full assignment incidents are dispatched.
- The Commission reviewed the Fire Administrator recommendations concerning the third quarter analysis of the LFRD FY 01 Operating Budgets.

Research and Planning

Emergency Management

Hurricane Exercises –Emergency Management and EMG Exercise Design Team participated in two days of exercises June 5-6. A communications exercise with District Chief Patullo and OEM staff was conducted the evening of June 5th with a fly over by Civil Air Patrol, and communication tests throughout the county using RACES and REACT volunteers. On June 6th the County Exercise Team participated in both the multi-state DELMARVA hurricane exercise and the PEPCO load shedding (outage) notification exercise.

Tornado – Emergency Management working with National Weather Service on follow-up to tornado Sunday May 27th in Olney. Damage estimates in dollars are needed. NWS confirmed through site visits that it was an F-1 tornado that damaged the Olney movie theater, nearby food service, and fences, trees, and yard materials in adjacent neighborhoods. Severe thunderstorms and funnel clouds also delayed playing of the Kemper Golf tournament. Fire Administrator and Operations handled issues of evacuating Kemper visitors.

Skywarn – Saturday June 9 two National Weather Service instructors taught six hours of basic Skywarn and tornado spotter training, which included a new hurricane module for 45 volunteers in the County. Classes are normally held for 15-20, but predictions for a more active storm season have generated more volunteer support. Spotters learned differences between tornadoes, funnel clouds, wall clouds, circulation patterns, and thunderstorms that mimic funnel clouds. Notification procedure updates and improvements to Doppler radar covered.

StormReady- Montgomery County has applied for certification as a *StormReady* community under the new National Weather Service program. The Skywarn training was one of a number of criteria that will be evaluated by visiting national evaluators.

Volunteer Appreciation – Skywarn, RACES, and REACT volunteers were honored with plaques and certificates from Fire Administrator and Emergency Management for past two years service June 9th at catered lunch during Skywarn and Hurricane training.

Weather Alert Radios – K. Henning gave interview Channel 5 Fox TV on importance of weather alert radios for automatic tornado and severe storm warnings directly from National Weather Service. Weather Alert Radio given to outgoing RACES Officer John Creel for two years service. Maryland Emergency Management Agency got Federal grant to put these radios in every public elementary school in the state but is looking for \$37,000 25% matching funds from corporate sponsors.

School Violence Exercise – Planning well underway for August 1ST joint school violence/shooting exercise with EMG and School Board officials. Police will exercise rapid entry team. Notifications will be tested. EMG will be activated.

GEMAC/SERC – State Health and Emergency Management are working with local jurisdictions on Hoof and Mouth preparedness plans to protect livestock and food chain in state.

CAO Annual Briefing – Planning underway for August 9th Annual Briefing of the Chief Administrative Officer on Emergency Management Work Program.

Utilities/Transportation –Semi-annual Public/Private Partnership Planning meeting was held on June 12 to discuss issues with representatives of utilities and transportation networks. PEPCO, Allegheny Power, Constellation Energy, WSSC, Washington Gas Light, Williams/Transco (transcontinental gas), Colonial Pipeline, Columbia Gas, Mirant Energy, and Verizon attended from the utilities and provided updates. Transportation representatives included Metrorail, CSX, WMATA, and Montgomery Airpark. Agenda included issues such as availability of fuels, impact of deregulation on power industries, and improvements to response. MARC was unable to attend. Columbia Gas has prepared a video tape training program for first responders which they provided to Emergency Management staff. Ric Helfrich from Health Department briefed them on West Nile virus. Chiefs Strock and Dwyer represented MCFRS, while Gordon Aoyagi chaired meeting.

Community Education Safety Section

- Attended various Staff meetings.
- Replied, by phone or email, to 35 citizen, 39 FD, & 25 “other” (media, county gov’t) inquires.
- Met with various department staff and members totaling 8 hours.
- Composed various Memos and Safety Tips for dissemination to all work locations.
- Attend 2 week course at National Fire Academy. Lt. Garcia filled in while I was away.

- Attended Every 15 Minute meeting at Rockville HS. (1.5 hours)
- Attended COG Public Safety Committee meeting. (3 hours)
- Community Safety Education Steering Committee meetings. 2 hours.
- Scheduled various community education events and classes (8 hours).
- Dealt with various personnel and program issues relating to community safety.
- Various correspondences composed and disseminated. (6 hours)
- Assisted with media at Aspen Hills Apt.'s fire. (1.5 hours)
- Assisted with Sumner Village Fire Evacuation plans and fire drills. Several meetings and plan review. (6 hours)
- Review fire evacuation plan for Colesville Center & EOB12th floor.
- Developed CPSS Flow Chart.
- Meeting re International Festival coordination. (2 hours)
- Fire Safety lectures for school, civic, and business groups impacting over 185 people.
- Review and comment on Pedestrian Safety Blue Ribbon Panel sub-committee meeting proposal. 1 hours.
- Budget related issues. 1 hour.
- Taped MCFRS Today video.
- Kemper Open coordination. (4 hours)
- Operation Extinguish management. (3 hours)
- Assisted with Press Conference relating to Water Safety with personnel from FS 10 & FS30. (6 hours).
- All MCFRS participated in CPSC "Recall Round Up."
- After The Fire walk in several neighborhoods involving many MCFRS stations and personnel. Approximately, 500 homes visited with approximately 1,000 citizen's impacted.
- Participated in the Montgomery County SafeKids day at the SoccerPlex May, 5th. Approximately 300 kids and adults impacted.
- Participated in Montgomery County Health Yourself fair. 200 people impacted.
- 2 Career Day presentations to various schools. 165 kids and 18 adults impacted.
- FS25 participated, with SafeHouse, at Argyle MS Health Fair. 500 adults and kids impacted.
- CPSS Tech's participated in Marriott Car Seat Check, 87 total seats checked. 81% misuse detected.

Corporate Development Services:

Automation Section

Fleet and Facilities Section

Fleet Activities

- Continued contract management efforts for the acquisition of replacement EMS units.

- Four (4) brush trucks were delivered and assigned to Gaithersburg-Washington Grove, Cabin John Park, Rockville, and Hyattstown.
- Started contract negotiations with Pierce for the acquisition of four (4) pumpers.
- Started contract negotiations with Pierce for the acquisition of one aerial tower.
- Continued participation in the PS 2000 project relating to mobile voice and data equipment.
- Placed orders, in cooperation with Fleet Management Services, for several support vehicles.

Facilities Activities

- Attended progress meetings for the Sandy Spring Fire Station 4 construction project. Substantial completion is now due August 2001.
- Represented the fire/rescue service at the Montgomery County Planning Board re: Collapse Rescue Team building. This project is in the permitting process phase and construction will begin soon.
- Performed project tasks for the Takoma Park Fire Station 2 replacement project, including station design activities and temporary site activities. The schematic floor plans are nearing completion. Related processes are in place.

Property Section

- Processed 363 property transactions during the month of May 2001.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- Was on annual leave the first week of the month.
- Attended the DFRS promotion ceremonies at the PSTA.
- Met with MCFRS and Montgomery College representatives regarding course outlines.
- Participated in the Administrative staff luncheon at B-CC.
- Met with Chief Long, the Fire Administrator and Dep. Chief Allwang regarding ongoing Frederick County issues.
- Attended and participated in the EMG meeting in the EOC.

- Met with the Fire Administrator, R. Riffe, and B. Bigenho regarding 508 issues.
- Attended the quarterly meeting with the FRC and the County Executive.
- Attended budget preparation meetings.
- Participated in a DVFRS staff and guests luncheon.
- Participated in a meeting with the Fire Administrator, Local 1664 V/P Daniels, and R. Wilson, Pres., MCVFRA regarding web site usage issues.
- Met with Chief Stanton, Chief Strock, and Dep. Chief Allwang regarding staffing issues at the KVFD.
- Met with Chief Edwards and Chief Strock regarding staffing and other issues at the HVFD.
- Attended the COG Metro Fire Chiefs Committee at the IAFC Headquarters.
- Attended the open house invitation for the new Arson/Investigations quarters.
- Participated in the Total Team Challenge festivities at the PSTA. NOTE - hopefully there will be more volunteer teams there next year.
- Visited the Kemper Open golf site.
- Attended a meeting with the Fire Administrator, Ass't. Chief Carr and K. Stewart regarding LOSAP.
- Discussed CIP issues at a meeting with the Fire Administrator and Steve Lamphier.
- Participated in a meeting with Chairman White and B. Gottesman regarding Fire Board issues relative mainly to recruiting and the car assigned to Mr. Gottesman.
- Attended another meeting, at the College, with the Fire Administrator, Chief Strock, Dep. Chief Jackson, Ass't. Chief Clemens regarding the planning of courses at that facility.
- Attended the High School Fire Science program graduation at the PSTA.
- Attended the Pollution Prevention monthly meeting. NOTE - emphasis placed on the Environmental Management System (EMS) program participation and its applicability to all 33 stations, etc. A letter will be forthcoming to all LFRD Presidents regarding this.
- Attended a final meeting and critique of the Mont. Co. Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee.
- Attended the monthly senior staff meeting.

- Attended a special meeting of the HRST Committee regarding the Code of Ethics.
- Attended the Fire Board, Human Resources, Safety and Training and MCFRS Chiefs' Committees, FRC, Fire-Rescue Association and the Safety Policy Committee meetings.
- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

Administration

Attended the Council of Governments Senior Operations Chiefs and Chiefs Meetings. Agreed with regional representatives to begin implementation of Mutual Aid Operations Plan as a method of daily operations regionally. Also agreed to begin work to standardize all regional reporting of fire rescue ems related information to provide for easy comparison across jurisdictions.

Attended and celebrated administrative staff recognition day.

Met with representatives from Pennsylvania regarding fire service management, scheduling, and labor relations issues.

Began work on implementation of staffing changes due to budget initiatives. We will coordinate these with scheduling, labor, and LFRD's to assure a smooth transition.

Safety

Held quarterly review of safety program and injury reporting. We determined that it is time to expand that effort to include vehicular accidents involving DFRS drivers.

Started next round of safety and survival training in concert with PSTA.

Specialty Teams

Met with administration on reorganization of teams. This initiative will be moving forward with presentation to FRC and LFRD's shortly.

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue:

Worked in several areas in support of county efforts at Kemper Golf Tournament.

Swiftwater Rescue Team

Hazardous Materials Response Team

The Team has produced a series of Standard Operating Guides for use by the field. These guides will provide a blueprint for all responding emergency service providers to operate from. The team is working to bring training into the county to provide for certain specialty certifications in tank car operations. This will result in a significant savings in training costs, and expand our ability to deliver training to more fire rescue staff.

River Rescue Team

Continues spring training effort and monitoring of Fairfax water project.

BUREAU OF PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES

Administration

Wellness

Recruitment/CPAT

Communications

Continuous Dispatch Education for May: Handling Hostage Calls

ECC Facts for May

911 Calls Answered: 10,424

911 Over-flow Calls Answered: 538

Administrative (in/out): 21,964

Training

Recruit Class #19 continues with 36 recruits currently taking EMT-B (Emergency Medical Technician-Basic) which will end the first week of June.

Ten Practical Exams were completed for Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing in May.

The new In-Service Training Program "Rapid Intervention Company Training" began on April 30th. Seven sessions were held in May with 114 DFRS students and 1 LFRD student attending.

A graduation ceremony for the 2000-2001 High School Fire Science Program was held at the PSTA on Thursday, May 24, 2001. Of the 14 students that graduated 7 were EMT-B Basic students and 7 were Essentials of Firefighting students.

Nine career and one volunteer EMT-Paramedic were awarded charge status in May.

EMT-Paramedic Class #21, the nighttime class began on September 11th, continues with 16 students (7 career and 9 volunteer).

EMT-Paramedic Class #22, the daytime class began on January 8th, continues with 12 students (10 DFRS career, one LVFD volunteer and one Howard County Fire and Rescue career).

The MCFRCTC provided two AED displays and working units at the Kemper Golf Tournament.

BUREAU OF LIFE SAFETY SERVICES

- Terrorism Annex Rewrite:

The work group continues to make changes to the May 7, 2001 draft. This was the draft that was distributed to members of the Emergency Management Group on May 9. EMG members will receive the latest draft at their next meeting.

- DECON 2001 Symposium

Planning is underway for the DECON 2001 Symposium scheduled for September 27 (Thursday), 28 (Friday) and 29 (Saturday). As with last year's symposium, the MCFRS will apply for a Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) training grant. We have received verbal approval, though the specific funding amount was not discussed. The symposium will have different topics and speakers.

The location of the symposium is the University of Maryland (Shady Grove Center). Updates will follow.

- Public Safety Preparedness Against Terrorism (PSPAT) Group

A meeting of fire and law enforcement officers was held at the Public Safety Training Academy on May 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to "refresh" members on matters relative to domestic preparedness.

Fire Code Enforcement

The Office of Fire Code Enforcement is currently evaluating ways to maintain customer service delivery at a reasonable level, despite a 20 percent reduction in resources. Their goal is to keep the time between request for inspections and inspections as short as possible.

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In May, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 19 accidental fires and 16 criminal fire related incidents. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 11 explosive incidents, of these incidents four were for suspicious packages. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$ 2,045,000 and \$ 1,055,500 for criminal fire related incidents.

Tipper, the section's accelerant detection canine, retired May 1 after many years of dedicated service. Lt. Shaw is currently in ATF Canine School training with his new partner, Hank. Lt. Shaw and Hank will be back at work at the end of June.

The section held an open house at its new location in Gaithersburg. We would like to thank everyone who stopped by that day to visit.